

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

1. - 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The instrument assembly of claim 8 26, wherein said first instrument is further adapted to be secured to said ~~first orthopaedic component~~ bone screw prior to implantation of said ~~first orthopaedic component~~ bone screw into a body of a patient.

10. (Currently Amended) The instrument assembly of claim 8 26, wherein said first instrument is further adapted to be secured to said ~~first orthopaedic component~~ bone screw subsequent to implantation of said ~~first orthopaedic component~~ bone screw into a body of a patient.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The instrument assembly of claim 8 26, wherein:
said bone screw has a flange secured thereto,

said bone plate has a channel defined therein, and

~~said third alignment feature is further adapted to cooperate with said first alignment feature and said second alignment feature such that said flange is advanced into~~ aligned with said channel when (i) said bone screw is secured to said first instrument, (ii) said bone plate is secured to said second instrument, and (iii) said alignment member is received into both said first recess and said second recess during movement of said second instrument with said bone plate secured thereto.

13. - 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) An instrument assembly ~~for percutaneously implanting a hip screw and a bone plate~~, comprising:

a screw locating instrument which is adapted to be secured to said ~~a~~ hip screw, said screw locating instrument having a first recess defined therein ~~alignment~~ feature;

a plate locating instrument which is adapted to be secured to said ~~a~~ bone plate, said plate locating instrument having a second recess defined therein ~~alignment~~ feature; and

an alignment instrument having an alignment member extending therefrom, wherein both said first recess and said second recess are adapted to receive said alignment member therein ~~a third alignment feature which is adapted to cooperate with said first alignment feature and said second alignment feature so as to position said screw locating instrument and said plate locating instrument in a predetermined position relative to one another thereby positioning said hip screw and said bone plate relative to one another.~~

22. (Original) The instrument assembly of claim 21, wherein said plate locating instrument is further adapted to be secured to said bone plate prior to implantation of said bone plate into a body of a patient.

23. (Original) The instrument assembly of claim 21, wherein said screw locating instrument is further adapted to be secured to said hip screw prior to implantation of said hip screw into a body of a patient.

24. - 25. (Canceled)

26. (New) An orthopaedic implant and instrument assembly, comprising:
a bone screw which is adapted to be screwed into a bone,
a bone plate which is adapted to be secured to said bone screw,
a first instrument which is adapted to be secured to said bone screw, said first instrument having a first recess defined therein;
a second instrument which is adapted to be secured to said bone plate, said second instrument having a second recess defined therein; and
a third instrument having an alignment member extending therefrom, wherein both said first recess and said second recess are adapted to receive said alignment member therein.